# Oxford House

(Founded October, 1975)

1219 Fidler Lane. Silver Spring. Maryland 20910

January 22, 1978

Thank you for you interest in OXFORD HOUSE. The additional information you requested is attached. We hope you find it interesting, and if you wish to pursue the possibility of starting another OXFORD HOUSE, or to refer others to us, we would be glad to co-operate in any way possible. A charter application has been enclosed and could be a first step toward starting an OXFORD HOUSE in your area.

Since we started in October, 1975, eight OXFORD HOUSES have been formed and all are functioning as autonomous entities. Each has its individual character; the common bond is a desire of the resident members to maintain their sobriety, and to help others who are also trying to continue their recovery from alcoholism.

OXFORD HOUSES differ from many other types of organization in a number of ways:

* They are self-supporting . Thus we do not seek grants or other outside support and the members achieve a sense of self-reliance, and prove their ability to stand on their own feet.

* There are no house managers or counselors. Members are free to determine for themselves the rules they as a group feel are necessary for making the house run smoothly. As individuals many members utilize programs and counselors outside the house. Nearly all attend meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous but this is not a requirement.

* Residents may stay as long as they want, provided they do not drink or take drugs and pay their rent. Rather than force out individuals who may still feel that they benefit from living in an OXFORD HOUSE, an attempt is made to find additional facilities. This is the way growth has occurred in the system.

* They are democratically run. All residents may vote at House meetings and elections. Officers are elected, and may not succeed themselves; all members are encouraged to assist in House operations. OXFORD HOUSE, INC. , as the blanket organization, does not interfere with day-to-day decisions but can give advice or step in, where there is an emergency or a situation affects OXFORD HOUSES as a whole. Presidents of the Houses are members of the Board of Directors of OXFORD HOUSE, INC.

The enclosed "Questions and Answers" , "Traditions", and a sample newsletter --"THE OXFORD GRAPE" provide additional information. A more detailed manual of operations is available to those who begin a new house.

Based on our experience in what has been a program that has helped over a hundred recovering alcoholics, we would be glad to share our experience and information with anyone seriously concerned with solving the problem of supportive houseing for the recovering alcoholic.

Sincerely yours,

John V. O'Neill

John V. O'Neill
President, OXFORD HOUSE, INC.

# Oxford House

"A CONCEPT AND SYSTEM BASED ON SOUND TRADITIONS FOR RECOVERING ALCOHOLICS TO HELP THEMSELVES"

CONCEPT -

a self-supported, self-run organization to provide housing for recovering alcoholics within a framework particularly conducive for comfortable sobriety.

SYSTEM -

a non-profit corporation providing individual charters to recovering alcoholics who want to join together to form democratically-run and self-supported housing consistent with the Oxford House concept, system and traditions.

TRADITIONS -

I. Oxford House has as its primary purpose the provision of housing and rehabilative support for the alcoholic who wants to stop drinking and stay stopped.

II. All Oxford Houses are run on a democratic basis. Our officers are but trusted servants serving continuous periods of no longer than six months in one office.

III. No member of an Oxford House is ever asked to leave without cause-- a dismissal vote by the membership because of drinking, drug taking, or non-payment of rent.

IV. Oxford House is not affiliated with Alcoholics Anonymous organizationally or financially, but Oxford House members realize that only active participation in Alcoholics Anonymous offers assurance of continued sobriety.

V. Each Oxford House should be autonomous except in matters affecting other Houses or Oxford House, Inc. as a whole.

VI. Each Oxford House should be financially self-supporting although Oxford House, Inc. may approve loans from either financially secure houses or a development fund in order to start new houses.

VII. Oxford House should remain forever non-professional relying upon democratic rule for the operation of its houses.

VIII. Propagation of the Oxford House, Inc. concept,system and traditions should always be conceived as public education rather than promotion. Principles should always be placed before personalities.

IX. Members who leave an Oxford House in good standing are encouraged to become associate members and offer friendship, support and example to newer members.

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